

ORIGINAL

NEW APPLICATION



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REC'D  
AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL

November 1, 2016

2016 NOV 2 PM 12 42

Docket Control

Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2927

T-02063A-16-0394

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

NOV 02 2016

**RE: Arizona Telephone Company;  
Revisions to Low-Income Assistance Programs Tariff**

DOCKETED BY	P.A.
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Docket Control:

Enclosed please find the original and 1 copy of the following tariff sheet (s):

**Section 3**

**Sixth Revised Sheet 20**

**Fifth Revised Sheet 21**

**Fourth Revised Sheets 21.1 & 22**

The purpose of this filing is to revise the Low-Income Assistance Programs tariff to comply with the FCC's Lifeline Modernization Order released on April 27, 2016 (WC Docket No. 11-42).

The proposed effective date for this filing is December 2, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (608) 664-4169.

Sincerely,

Rachelle A. Ladwig  
Senior Administrator - Tariffs

Enclosures

# GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

Exchange: ALL

Section 3

ARIZONA TELEPHONE COMPANY

Arizona

Sixth Revised Sheet 20

Cancels Fifth Revised Sheet 20

## LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Low-Income Assistance Programs consist of two programs, Lifeline Assistance and Lifeline Connection Assistance. These programs were developed to reduce rates for low income customers. The Company participates in both of these assistance programs to increase the availability of telecommunications services to all consumers in its serving areas. The structure of each program is outlined in the following paragraphs.

#### 1. Lifeline Assistance

##### a. General

Lifeline Assistance reduces an eligible customer's monthly rates for local service. An eligible customer receives credit for the Federal Subscriber Line Charge as well as a credit towards the residential access line rate.

##### b. Regulations

1) Lifeline Assistance is available to all residential customers who meet the following eligibility requirements: <sup>(1)</sup>

a) Customers must participate in one of the following programs:

Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),  
Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing  
Assistance, or Veteran's and Survivors Pension Benefit, or (T)

Have household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal  
Poverty Guidelines (T)

b) Beginning October 1, 2000, eligibility has been expanded to permit low-income individuals living on tribal lands to establish their income eligibility by certifying participation in one of the following federal assistance programs: (1) Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; (2) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) tribally-administered block grant program; (3) Head Start Programs (under income qualifying eligibility provision only); (4) National School Lunch Program (free meals program only), or (5) Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

<sup>(1)</sup> State support is provided in accordance with A.R.S 46.703.

(T)

## GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

Exchange: ALL

Section 3

**ARIZONA TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Arizona

Fifth Revised Sheet 21

Cancels Fourth Revised Sheet 21

### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

#### A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Continued)

##### 1. Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

##### b. Regulations (Continued)

- 2) The customer must sign under penalty of perjury, a document certifying:
  - a) He/she is receiving benefits from one of the programs in 1.b.1 a) or b) above or he/she has household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (T)
  - b) He/she must provide the name of the program from which they are receiving benefits with supporting documents showing their program participation or provide supporting documents showing their household income is at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. The supporting documents must be one of the following: 1) Prior year's state, federal, or tribal tax return, 2) Current income statements from an employer or paycheck stub, 3) A Social Security statement of benefits, 4) A Veterans Administration statement of benefits, 5) A retirement/pension statement of benefits, 6) An Unemployment/Workman's Compensation statement of benefits, 7) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program, 8) A divorce decree or child support document. If the customer chooses to submit anything other than the prior year's income tax return, they must then present three consecutive month's of the alternate supporting documentation selected that is within the most recent twelve consecutive months. (T)
  - c) That he/she will notify the company if he/she no longer participates in the program named in b. preceding or if their household income increases above 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (T)
- 3) A customer is not eligible for Lifeline and Link-Up from the Company if he/she is currently receiving Lifeline and Link-Up credit for service from another Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.
- 4) As a participant in Lifeline Assistance, customers are eligible to receive Toll Restriction Service at no charge. This service will only be provided at the customer's request.
- 5) Local service deposit requirements will be waived for customers who voluntarily receive Toll Restriction Service.

ISSUED: November 2, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

BY: Joel Dohmeier, Vice-President

# GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

ARIZONA TELEPHONE COMPANY  
Arizona

Exchange: ALL  
Section 3  
Fourth Revised Sheet 21.1  
Cancels Third Revised Sheet 21.1

## LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Continued)

#### 1. Lifeline Assistance (Continued)

##### b. Regulations (Continued)

- 6) Participants in Lifeline Assistance shall not be disconnected from Local Service for non-payment of toll charges. In addition, the Company will not deny re-establishment of local service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll charges. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if an outstanding balance is owed by the customer for local service.
- 7) Partial payments that are received from Lifeline customers will first be applied to local service charges and then to any outstanding toll charges.
- 8) Verification of a customer's continuing eligibility shall be performed by the Company on an annual basis.
- 9) Records will be maintained by the Company in accordance with Arizona Corporation Commission Decision No. 67941 and FCC C.F.R. 54.417.
- 10) One Lifeline discount is allowed per household. The FCC defines "household" as any individual or group living together at the same address as one economic unit.

##### c. Credits

The following credits\* will apply for each customer eligible for Lifeline Assistance:

	Monthly Credit*	
1) Federal Lifeline Assistance Benefit	(1)	
2) Additional Federal Credit to Residential Access Line for eligible tribal land residents who qualify under either 1.b.1 a) or b)	(2)	
3) State Lifeline Assistance Benefit	(3)	(C)

\* Credit amount will not exceed the total of the Subscriber Line Charge and the Residential Local Exchange rate.

(1) Authorized FCC rate.

(2) Credit up to \$25.00 and not to exceed a base of \$0.00.

(3) State support is provided in accordance with A.R.S 46.703. DES instructs the Company on which accounts the benefits are to be applied to.

(C)  
(C)

ISSUED: November 2, 2016

EFFECTIVE: December 2, 2016

BY: Joel Dohmeier, Vice-President

## GENERAL EXCHANGE TARIFF

**ARIZONA TELEPHONE COMPANY**  
Arizona

Exchange: ALL  
Section 3  
Fourth Revised Sheet 22  
Cancels Third Revised Sheet 22

### LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

#### A. LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (Continued)

##### 2. Lifeline Connection Assistance (Link-Up)

###### a. General

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Link-Up reduces an eligible Tribal Land customer's service connection charges.

###### b. Regulations

- 1) The same eligibility requirements as outlined in Paragraph 1.b.1 above will apply for Link-Up.
- 2) The customer must sign under penalty of perjury, a document certifying:
  - a) He/she is receiving benefits from one of the programs in A.1 above or she/she has household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (T)
  - b) The name of the program from which they are receiving benefits with supporting documents showing their program participation or provide documents that prove their household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (from the list included in the Lifeline Assistance tariff preceding). (T)
  - c) That he/she will notify the Company if he/she no longer participates in the program named in b. preceding or their household income increases above 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (T)
- 3) A customer is not eligible for Lifeline and Link-Up from the Company if he/she is currently receiving Lifeline and Link-Up credit for service provided by another Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.
- 4) This credit is only available on the installation of a single residential access line to the principal residence of the eligible customer.
- 5) This credit will only apply a second or subsequent time for a principal place of residence with a different address from the previous address at which Link-Up was provided.
- 6) A deferred schedule for payment of the remaining service connection charges will be offered to Link-Up customers. The customer is not required to pay interest on the first \$200 of service connection charges that are deferred up to a year.

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